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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

interfere with the measurement of strain imposed by contact between the balloon and the stomach wall, which was Knowlton's purpose for using them.

Applicant pointed out that the claims under examination specify strain gauges each operable to report a degree of expansion of a local portion of a wall of said expandable balloon, which is precisely what Knowlton's strain gauges must not do if they are to serve his purpose.

The Examiners suggested amending the claims so as to make explicit that the strain gauges are mounted on the balloon in such a way as to measure strain along the surface of the balloon. Applicants agreed to so amend the claims if required to do so by the Examiner, but requested allowance of the unamended claims, pointing out that such mounting of the strain gauges is implicit in the un-amended language of the claim, in that only if the gauges are so mounted could they be "operable to report a degree of expansion of a local portion of a wall of said expandable balloon."

The participants also discussed Knowlton's secondary reference to strain gauges for use in manometric measurement. The Applicant pointed out that the references at Column 14, lines 4-24 of Knowlton are directed to measurements of the (necessarily uniform) pressures *within* the balloon, pressures imposed on the balloon contents by pressure of the stomach wall on the balloon surface. Applicant pointed out that these measurements are also different from, and incompatible with, measurement of expansion of local portions of the balloon wall, as set forth in the claims.

An early allowance of the pending claims of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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